

## **DOC HWH Smoking Cessation Implementation Summary**

### **Tasks to Date Through July 3, 2018**

1. UConn SSW/DMHAS Research Division project staff collaborated with Connie Capacchione of Uncas Health District to conduct a smoking cessation program at Fellowship House in Groton. Ms. Capacchione offers NRT & the evidence-based American Lung Assoc. Freedom from Smoking curriculum via group or individual sessions. We chose this partner for collaboration because they, too, have received funding from the Board of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund.
  - a. Phone meeting with Ms. Capacchione on 5/9/18.
  - b. 7/2/18 Presented informational session with Connie Capacchione at Fellowship House, Groton. 5 males received information, 3 were smokers, 1 was interested in Connie's smoking cessation program and signed up with her to begin the program. If more HWH residents are interested, Ms. Capacchione will offer group sessions instead of individual. Low number of available residents due to many residents working different shifts. We will be in contact with the program to find another time to present when more participants are available and when there is significant HWH participant turn-over.
2. Collaborated with Dr. Maybelle Mercado of Hartford Behavioral Health to conduct smoking cessation program at Hartford and Middletown HWHs. Dr. Mercado also offers NRT and a 12-week program using the evidence-based Healthy Living Curriculum by University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey via group or individual sessions. We chose this partner because they receive funding from the Board of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund.
  - a. Phone meeting with Dr. Mercado on 1/31/18.
  - b. In-person meeting with Dr. Mercado on 2/9/18 to discuss collaboration.
  - c. Ongoing communications with Dr. Mercado and various DOC-contracted HWHs to facilitate connection and set up HWH smoking cessation programs.
  - d. NRT provided.
  - e. UConn SSW/DMHAS Research Division program staff presented to HWH residents at Silliman & Johnson with Dr. Mercado on 3/27/18, inviting residents to participate in Dr. Mercado's program. Dr. Mercado also presented to the program participants of Cheney House on 3/27/18 and Eddy Center on 5/4/18.



3. UConn SSW/DMHAS Research Division program staff collaborated with Marian Storch of Department of Public Health. Ms. Storch oversees data collection of Dr. Mercado's smoking cessation programs in Hartford that are offered to HUD public housing sites.
  - a. In-person meeting with Ms. Storch on 5/3/18 to discuss data sharing. Ms. Storch provided additional valuable information and resources to tap, including CT Quitline referral sheets that can be provided to HWH staff and a connection to Connie Capacchione of Uncas Health District (see Tasks #1, a-b).
4. UConn SSW/ DMHAS RD program staff created an informational handout to provide to DOC-contracted HWH residents during all presentations that includes UConn SSW Research HWH smoking prevalence survey data (please see attachment).
5. Staff conducted research and conversations with key administrators at UConn SSC Graduate MSC program regarding the possibility of having UConn Social Work MSW graduate students conduct smoking cessation groups in HWHs to receive field placement credit. Concluded that this avenue is not possible or sustainable due to the fact that formal field placements are already in place and due to requirement of consistent hours/programming and supervision. Received positive word that we can pursue MSW graduate students gaining independent study credits to do 'smoking cessation and stay quit' programming with DOC-contracted HWH residents in lieu of a more formal structured field placement. We will be setting up in near future.
6. 1/2018 communicated with 5 DOC-contracted halfway houses that expressed interest for 'stay quit' programming during our data collection efforts: Silliman & Johnson, Cheyney House, Hartford House, Eddy Center in Middletown, and Fellowship House in Groton.
7. Identified and in communication with 3 other HWHs. Working with them now to surmount some barriers to connecting them to local providers of smoking cessation groups: Isaiah House in Bridgeport (\*\*see below for more details: many attempts to connect to programming, to date; will continue to work with key people to get programming implemented), Next Step in Willimantic (discovered that CHC cannot provide services to this location as it is out of district; will look for an alternative), and Cochegan House in Uncasville (HWH staff reported that they are currently in process of moving from New Haven and that the current time is too chaotic to conduct any programming; to be contacted again after move).

\*\*We attempted connecting the Bridgeport HWH with 4 local CHCs (Southwest Community Health Center, Bridgeport Community Health Center, Southwest Mental Health Services, St. Vincent's Medical Center). However, after many contact attempts, no linkage was formalized to connect the HWH to a smoking cessation program. Two of

the CHCs (SWCHC & BCHC) currently do not offer any smoking cessation programming, but their doctors do prescribe NRT on an as needed basis. We have given this information to the HWH. SWMHS offers group and individual therapy only to DMHAS clients and prescribe NRT as needed but it varies by doctor. After many contact attempts, no successful contact was reached with anyone from St. Vincent's, which we were informed offers smoking cessation programming. We will continue to pursue this service provider and attempt to link them to the Bridgeport HWH.

8. Dissemination of findings and program work: Manuscript in preparation for submission to a respected peer reviewed journal for publication.
9. Mailed smoking cessation flyers created by DPH on 11/2017 to Isaiah House in Bridgeport, as the executive director asked for informational brochures during a qualitative interview conducted via phone.
10. Conducted qualitative interviews via phone with 14 halfway house directors/staff between 10/2017 - 11/2017 to assess tobacco policies and HWH administrations' readiness to connect with local health centers for smoking cessation support. Data analysis completed and reported to the Board in December 2017, with additional results related specifically to programming at HWHs reported to the Board in July 2018.

**Next Steps:**

1. Pursue connection with Recovery Network of Programs (RNP) and other DOC contracted community health agencies.
2. Expanding number of HWHs beyond the original 5. Follow-up with the 3 HWHs that encountered barriers to programming.
3. We will pursue MSW students gaining independent study credit instead of field placement to provide smoking cessation programming at the HWHs.
4. Continue to support and facilitate evidence based programming at DOC-contracted HWHs, by Board-funded service providers and other local Community health agencies.